

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COMMUNITY PARTNERS PREPARE FOR DISASTERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER DRILL

-Florida Department of Health in Indian River County host Special Needs Shelter Drill with community partners on June 28th, 2013.

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FL With hurricane seasons arrival Florida Department of Health in Indian River County wants to be prepared to help the community if needed. Together with Indian River County Emergency Services, Visiting Nurses Association, Perkins Medical Supply, School District of Indian River County, National Animal Assisted Crisis Response and Senior Resource Association, Florida Department of Health in Indian River County hosted a Special Needs Shelter drill on June 28th, 2013 at Treasure Coast Elementary School.

Cheryl Dunn, Environmental Health Director for Florida Department of Health in Indian River County and acting administrator advises "It is important for everyone to be prepared this time of year and exercising our Special Needs Shelter Plan with community partners is just part of how the health department prepares."

Mrs. Dunn reminds everyone that sheltering is a last resort, making a plan to evacuate when advised by emergency management to evacuate should always be your first choice. The Special Needs Shelter and Indian River County's pet evacuation shelter both require preregistration every year. For more information on and registering for the Special Needs Shelter and pet evacuation shelter, go to www.irces.com/EM.

Don't forget to:

- Go to www.floridadisaster.org or www.ready.gov and develop a personalized plan (your plan should include all your family members including your pets)
- Go to Indian River County Emergency Services website www.irces.com/EM and download their Disaster Preparedness Guide, it is full of information to keep you safe for a variety of hazards
- Take time to review the information on www.irces.com/EM including:
 - Disaster Preparedness News, Tips, Tools & Link
 - Pet Evacuation Shelter
 - Evacuation Routes
 - Storm Surge Zones
 - Sign up for emergency alerts to come directly to your phone, email, Facebook Account, or Twitter Account, etc.

Additional information on Florida Department of Health's efforts to stay prepared and resilient can be found at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/demo/bpr/index.htm>

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